

Amendments to the Claims:

Please replace the pending claims with the following claims:

1.-14. (cancelled)

15. (previously presented) A method of preparing an immunogenic composition comprising combining a fusion protein with a saponin adjuvant in a free form, thereby forming said immunogenic composition; wherein said fusion protein comprises a *Babesia* Bd37 polypeptide and a decay accelerating factor peptide.

16.-22. (cancelled)

23. (previously presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein the saponin adjuvant is Quillaja saponin.

24. (currently amended) A method of preparing a vaccine against *Babesia divergens* parasite induced disease comprising admixing the immunogenic composition made according to the method of claim 15 with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier; wherein the *Babesia* Bd37 polypeptide comprises the sequence given by SEQ ID NO.: 20.

25. (currently amended) The method of claim 24, comprising admixing the immunogenic composition and the carrier with ~~wherein~~ at least one additional immunoactive component ~~is combined with said vaccine.~~

26. (currently amended) The method of claim 24, comprising freeze-drying ~~wherein~~ said vaccine ~~is freeze-dried.~~

27.-28. (cancelled)

29. (currently amended) The method of claim 15, wherein the *Babesia* Bd37 polypeptide comprises the sequence given by SEQ ID NO.: 20 ~~amino acids 25-316 of NCBI accession no. CAD19563.~~

30. (previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the decay accelerating factor peptide comprises SEQ ID. No. 14.

31. (currently amended) The method of claim 15, wherein the *Babesia* Bd37 polypeptide comprises the sequence given by SEQ ID NO.: 20 ~~amino acids 25-316 of NCBI accession no. CAD19563~~ and the decay accelerating factor peptide comprises SEQ ID. No. 14.

32. (withdrawn) An immunogenic composition comprising:
- i) a fusion protein comprising a *Babesia* Bd37 polypeptide and a decay accelerating factor peptide; and
 - ii) a saponin adjuvant in a free form.
33. (withdrawn) The immunogenic composition according to claim 32, wherein the saponin adjuvant is Quillaja saponin.
34. (withdrawn) A vaccine comprising the immunogenic composition according to claim 32, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
35. (withdrawn) The vaccine according to claim 34, further comprising at least one additional immunoactive component.
36. (withdrawn) The vaccine of claim 34, wherein said vaccine is freeze-dried.
37. (withdrawn) The immunogenic composition of claim 32, wherein the *Babesia* Bd37 polypeptide comprises amino acids 25-316 of NCBI accession no. CAD19563.
38. (withdrawn) The immunogenic composition of claim 32, wherein the decay accelerating factor peptide comprises SEQ ID. No. 14.

39. (withdrawn) The immunogenic composition of claim 32, wherein the *Babesia* Bd37 polypeptide comprises amino acids 25-316 of NCBI accession no. CAD19563 and the decay accelerating factor peptide comprises SEQ ID. No. 14.